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COUNTRY Czechoslovakia

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REPORT NO.

TOPIC 80th Infantry Battalion in Prague

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EVALUATION

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PLACE OBTAINED

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DATE PREPARED 16 November 1950

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REMARKS

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1. Prior to 27 September 1950 the 80th Inf Bn, surnamed Pražské povstání (Prague Insurrection), was located in Prague.

The battalion was subordinate to General Ejem, (fnu), whose headquarters was located in the Jiríkovy Barracks on Nam. republiky, Prague II. Lieutenant Colonel Straka, (fnu), who had been on the staff of General Ejem, was allegedly arrested in August 1950. \*

2. The battalion headquarters, the headquarters company (or V Co), the radio unit (or R Unit), an infantry company (or P Co), the heavy machine gun company (or K Co), and the replacement company (or B Co) were located in Camp Prague-Motol. The gun company (or D Co), an infantry company (or N Co), and the mortar company (or M Co) of the battalion were located in the castle of Prague-Motol and the submachine gun company in the Jirího z Poděbrad Barracks on Nam republiky, Prague II.
3. Officers of the battalion included Major Bedrich Kotek, battalion commander; Senior Lieutenant Brabenec, (fnu), political officer; Staff Captain Rehak, (fnu), chief of staff; Staff Captain Borsky, (fnu), DOZ officer; Captain Kalina, (fnu), commanding officer of the headquarters company; and Staff Captain Socha, (fnu), commanding officer of the gun company.
4. The headquarters company had a strength of about 130 men. The P Co (Inf) consisted of three platoons and numbered about 160 soldiers, of whom 70 were detached, including 40 soldiers working with a coal brigade. The company was equipped with German model 98 rifles, about 30 old Czech submachine guns, about 60 Czech models 43-A and 43-B submachine guns, eight German light machine guns and four heavy machine guns. The gun company was observed to have four guns drawn by four-horse teams and two guns drawn by six-horse teams.
5. The battalion was referred to as parade battalion. Elements of it were frequently observed at reviews, funerals, and ceremonies.
6. Soviet officers have been billeted in Prague hotels since 8 September 1950. It was said that, beginning 1 October 1950, they would be attached to all Czechoslovakian units to supervise training. \*\*

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\* Comment. The statements confirm a previous report. It seems possible that the battalion is subordinate to General Hjem, (fmu), Prague military post commandant, since it is employed in guard and honor guard duty in Prague.

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\*\* Comment. This information confirms a report from Slovakia that, after the induction of recruits, the training would be supervised by Soviet officers.

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